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November 11, 1999

John R. Velasquez, Jr.
Acting Central Enforcement Docket Supervisor
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: MUR 4929
Complaint of Rhawn Joseph, Ph.D., against ABC, et al.

Dear Mr. Velasquez:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Knight-Ridder, Inc. ("Knight Ridder") in response to your communication of October 4, 1999, concerning the complaint of Rhawn Joseph, Ph.D., a self-described Republican candidate for President. Knight Ridder respectfully submits that the complaint does not set forth a possible violation by Knight Ridder of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), and that no action should be taken against Knight Ridder concerning Dr. Joseph's complaint.

The complaint makes sweeping general allegations, without foundation, of "flagrant" violations of federal election laws by the named parties, which are charged with such violations by general reference to "the corporations." The complaint appears to rest on the unfounded proposition that news coverage and commentary by legitimate news organizations are disguise for activities alleged to be violations of federal law, such as alleged political "contributions" and selective "advertising" for certain candidates for political office. The complaint makes no specific factual allegations against Knight Ridder. Knight Ridder has not committed violations of federal law of the nature alleged by Dr. Joseph, or any nature whatsoever, and in so far as I am aware, Knight Ridder has no knowledge of any violations of the Act of the sort asserted by Dr. Joseph.

The complaint itself acknowledges that the views and catastrophic, climatic predictions of candidate Joseph have been ignored. We suspect that despite Dr. Joseph's protestations to the contrary, his complaint appears to be an attempt to capture the public eye through unsupported allegations before this Commission. The complaint consists of meritless allegations of grand scale and should be disregarded.

Should you wish to contact Knight Ridder in the future concerning this matter, please contact me directly. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Stevenson

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COUNSEL
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